

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01521 251405Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 251524Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5870

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 1521

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: NIMBUS STAR: PRESS INQUIRIES REGARDING US

CLEARANCE OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVES FROM SUEZ CANAL.

1. PRESS INTEREST, BOTH BY FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES AND LOCAL EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS, IN US OPERATION TO CLEAR SUEZ CANAL OF MINES AND EXPLOSIVES HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY SINCE ARRIVAL OF RADM. MCCAULEY. SINCE OPERATION IS HIGHEST VISIBILITY US PROJECT IN EGYPT SINCE 1967, AND IN VIEW OF POLITICAL DRAMA SURROUNDING EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS INTEREST WILL CONTINUE.

2. GOE APPEARS UNCERTAIN HOW TO HANDLE PUBLICITY ASPECTS OF NIMBUS STAR OPERATION. ONE WEEK AGO WE WERE INFORMED BY EDITOR OF EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER THAT INFORMATION MINISTRY HAD ASKED PRESS NOT TO PUBLISH FIGURES OF NUMBERS OF AMERICANS INVOLVED IN OPERATION, BUT GUMHURIYYA CONTAINED ARTICLE AT END OF WEEK NOTING THAT SOME 500 US MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD PARTICIPATE IN CANAL CLEARANCE. IN MEANTIME, SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CONTINUES TO DEFLECT REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO EMBASSY, AND WE CONTINUE TO GIVE ONLY BROAD OUTLINE OF STATUS OF NIMBUS STAR.

EILTS

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01521 251405Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

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